

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 remain in this application. Claim 26 has been amended. In view of the above amendment to Claim 26, and the arguments presented above regarding Claim 25, Applicants respectfully request examination on the merits of all claims 1-26.

The Office Action contends that Claim 1 is anticipated by WO 98/09812. Claim 1 is directed to a method of producing a laminated packaging material comprising a core layer of paper or paper board and a barrier layer applied on one side of the core layer. A liquid barrier composition including a dispersion or solution of a polymer and an inorganic laminar compound is applied as a barrier layer on at least one side of a carrier layer. The barrier layer is then dried during heating for driving off the dispersant or solvent, and the carrier layer with the applied, dried barrier layer is combined and permanently united with one side of the core layer.

In contrast to the novel combination of features claimed in independent Claim 1, WO 98/09812 provides no disclosure or suggestion of the novel combination of features including a liquid barrier composition with a dispersion or solution of a polymer and an inorganic laminar compound. Accordingly, WO 98/09812 does not anticipate the novel combination of features claimed in independent Claim 1.

Claims 2-26 are also patentable over WO 98/09812 for the same reasons as discussed above with regard to Claim 1, and for the additional features that they recite.

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Prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. In the event any questions arise regarding this communication or the application in general, please contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 9, 2003

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